

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

PARIS, December 6, 1902. It is quite the fad of the moment here in Paris for the women to drop in for a cup of tea at one of the fashionable tea rooms. You know we are all very English nowadays in our customs and sports, and this 5 o'clock function has been taken up with enthusiasm. The true Parisienne really loathes the cup that cheers, but there are nice little substitutes in which the letter of the law is adhered congregate is about Christmas and Christmas presents.

Judging from the conversations overheard, every woman hopes to wake up Christmas morning to find herself the possessor of pearls in some form. They look so well with the white costumes which are the craze just now! By the way, the smartest thing in the jewelry line is to have and waist buckle of amethyst worn with a mauve gown trimined in dark fur and wool lace would be stunning. I noticed some beautifully tailored walking frocks at the

Despite the fact that in some quarters the short skirt is cried down, a walk on the Bols soon proves its popularity, as almost every well-gowned woman wears one. Of course, there are many times when they are entirely out of place and the long trained one is de rigueur. But it is certain-ly the moment for the well-shaped skirt which just clears the ground and for the smartly made blouse jacket. Some of the latter are continued in pointed basques back and front, but the majority finish at the waist with a band of the material be-neath a slight pouching of the cloth. The whort skirt. If properly cut, is practical and graceful for walking purposes. Strange as it may seem to the uninitiated in matters sartorial, it is not every tailor who can cut one of these skirts. It is as essential nowadays to have a well-fitting skirt as a coat without a wrinkle, and the most suitable ly pointed at the back and front, giving a curve that makes a pretty "line." From this band the skirt hangs in rather wide knife plaits stitched in a graduated fashion to the knees and left to flow loose at the feet. It is absolutely indispensable to a graceful effect that the portion near the boots be wide for the simple reason that the fullness minimizes the size of the feet.

Be Well Booted.

It is also important to be well booted when wearing the walking skirt. Flat

kid are the requisites of shoes and boots that make for elegance. The Parisian wo-men never took kindly to the dull, boxto the dun, box-toed English shoe. he high Louis XV heel is never seen on the shoes of women who know how to dress. They would con-sider their toilet as incorrect with a high-heel boot as with a torn veil or soiled

Several elegant toilets of white taffeta were seen the other night at the Comedie Francais. On of them was especially lovely with a shaped flounce on the skirt, the hem being frilled with platted mousseline de in which the letter of the law is adhered to and the spirit is not found wanting. The with bows of white lace connected by talk at these rooms where women most do congregate is about Christmas and Christwidely over a stomacher composed entirely of roses and foliage. A bertha of white lace surrounded the decollete bodice, and a strap of lace crossed over the shoulder, from which fell a garland of roses reaching half way down the arm. A narrow band of lace encircled the waist, which was held together at the back by a huge bow of lace with long ends.

Another attractive frock was worn by a

one's jewels tone in with the dress scheme, and the designer is putting forth strenuous pleased with herself and the world at large, efforts to make madame's toilet a success in this particular. For instance, a collar found in a becoming gown. This affair was of the empire style in crepe de chine of a peculiar amber color. The long, trailing skirt, clinging close to the figure, was cut in one, with the bodice, which was quite loose in front, being simply swathed across in unstudied folds. The back hung in plaits, and in the center between the shoulders was a large butterfly bow of black lace. Two smaller bows ornamented the shoulders. There was no other trimming, yet it was very graceful in its simplicity.

What to Buy.

If you want a pretty, inexpensive evening frock, why not purchase a white net with alencon laces, appliques, insertions and frillings? This delicate, tullelike net is very modish just now, and the alencon laces, though handsomer than ever, are not as ex-pensive as they were. You may use an old satin or silk slip very nicely for the founda-tion, but be sure to use as much chiffon as circumstances warrant to soften the net The padding of chiffon is half the battle to a successful finish. The alencon insertions will redeem the skirt from plainness. A bolero effect is becoming to hang the lace around the bodice.

Nearly al the evening bodices and blouses have lace or some other thin material arranged in this fashion. For a girlish evening frock black net is very good with sequin lace applied in somewhat the same way as the alencon is on the white net. Cheose a lace in which the sequins are small, as large ones are very garish. A dress of this kind s much prettier for a young girl than a regular seguin robe. Do not have any of your dancing frocks what I call trailing, but let them make a

heels, pointed toes and the finest glace | pretty, frisky froth around the feet, taking

BEAUTIFUL GOWN OF IRISH CROCHET.

a line on the floor at the back. The ser-pentine air has been overdone and is no

a line on the floor at the back. The serpentine air has been overdone and is no longer the proper caper.

For the small dinner parties that seem to be the order of the day there is an attempt to dine in a hat, with the low mousselline de sole dress. This mode is well enough at a restaurant, but utterly out of place at a private house. In the rush that characterizes the fashionable woman's life there is the fear that one or other of the tempting invitations must be missed, so a smart few have hit upon the idea of dining at a certain house and leaving at the end of the dinner for the Gymnase or Vaudeville, so they dine en chapeau. This innovation has given offense in more than one instance, and in all probability will not be encouraged. Otherwise it will become necessary to add a line to the invitation card to the effect that ladies are not admitted to the dining room with their hats on. The tickets of the Theater Francais bear an inscription with regard to ladies wearing hats in the stalls, and there is no reason, if the situation demands it, why the hostesses who object to the hatted guest should not notify them. Of course we accept the fashion at luncheon and acknowledge its usefulness.

ers; I will say nothing of the effect center of Washington and the Anthropological Society and the Woman's Collegiate Alumnae and the mothers' congress to descend upon Paris as humanely bent upon reformation as ever our army descended upon Cuba or the Philippines.

I will say nothing of the insanitary standards of education here, which being known would cause the Civic Center of Washington and the Mothary congress to descend upon Paris as humanely bent upon reformation as ever our army descended upon Cuba or the Philippines.

I will say nothing of the utter lack of modern conveniences for housekeeping, and for decency's sake, if for no other reason, I will not say how often—that is, how seldom—we have come to bathe, nor for pity's and in popon, respectable American woman, can bring herself to go clad in a silk necktie, however them. Of course we accept the fashion at luncheon and acknowledge its usefulness. There is so much to be done during the day that the luncheon party only occupies the time of a friendly call. But dinner is another story. We are more ceremonious and at the same time more hospitable. In fact, the affair lies in a nutshell. We will not allow an invitation to our house to be treat-

ed like an invitation to a restaurant. Never Were Prettier.

Speaking of hats reminds me that they have never been prettier. The new small turban toque seems to me the best thing brought out for many a long day. Very chic, too, is the flat, white French sailor covered with black chenille dots and a touch of green, with great knots of the green falling on the hair at the back. White is very desirable on the head and rivals black in popularity. A lovely small white turban had a narrow band of brown velvet, the only other trimming consisting of an enormous thick, brown ostrich feather stuck like a quill through the brim. A large white hat which appealed to me had a single black velvet bow forming the bandeau and two black ostrich feathers.

To come back to skirts, there is a striking nnovation in the way of full skirts which is becoming more the vogue each day. eral well-known houses have ventured to adopt this mode in designing toilets with quite voluminous skirts for their patrons who figure among the most perfectly dressed women in the gay capital. For evening gowns made of the new soft velour mousseline it is an especially dainty style. The skirt, gathered finely from a very nar-row hip piece below the waist, falls in graceful folds to the base, while a deep, quaintly shaped gulpure embroidered collar on the waist combines in the picturesque ensemble. The finest and most supple cloth is gathered and plaited across the hips, from which appears a fullness reminding one of the old styles. To a slight figure it is very becoming.

Two striking gowns worn by Jane Hading "La Chatelaine" are well worth describing. The first, in white crepe de chine, has a pretty, deep shoulder cape embroidered with chinchilla fur, a yellow velvet collar giving the only note of color. The second toilet is of ochre-colored lace, having large silver and strass buttons ornamenting the skirt, together with silver embroidery and fringe, as a decoration to the collar and hem of the princess rebe.

Viennese Rivals.

The Viennese dressmakers are pressing of their confections are exquisite. Especially beautiful was a gown in white zibeline. the very thick and long hair giving the impression of fur. The flaring skirt had inwhite woolly stuff all over it. A bolero formed of the lace was the waist decoration, and the becoming touch of color was given by a burnt orange choker. These artists Irish lace which relied upon the perfection of its cut for distinction. It was cut low, as are all the swagger evening coats. Inmany of them cut away like a man's even-

A most remarkable coat for a grande dame is made of over a hundred rabbits' ears. Poor little bunny! To what base uses he has descended! It reminds one of Mark Antony's appeal to the Romans. Fickle fashion is constant only to a constant change, but there are certain combinations of which we never tire—for example, white velvet or thick cream oriental satin trimmed with old lace and sable. Say what you will, this combination is never out of so long as it is made by a master Emerald green, bright cerise and a lovely shade of rose pink are popular, but women who look best in grays, faint manyes and pastel blues are wise to remain faithful to these shades. After all, there are possibilities in every color, but fashion decrees that each woman shall adopt one or two soft shades for her own. CATHERINE TALBOT.

Folding a Tablecloth.

the center of the table. Then the half breadth that is folded should be turned back and the cloth will hang evenly. Careless servants often gather up a cloth "anyhow," without taking the trouble to fold it up again in its own creases, and thus fresh ones are made. A tablecloth will last fresh looking as long again if it is always folded up after its own folds and put away until the next meal.



She Finds Very Little to Make Life Worth Living.

NOTHING IS CHEAP

WHY AMERICAN WOMEN LEAVE THEIR HUSBANDS AT HOME. or in

All Sorts of Reasons—Some Only Fair and Others Act Even

That. P2 K 2

To the Editor of The Evening Star:

PARIS France, December 7, 1902. When I tell you that I have been a fortnight in London, you will understand perfeetly why I am writing a letter to the editor. If there is one thing in London that is nicer than Jam for breakfast and food cooked without salt it is the delicious habit the British people have of writing letters to the editor upon all occasions, and even-indeed, most generally-when there is no possible occasion. "I am inclined to believe that the main reason why the British people are so far behind the American in some things is because, while the American public is hustling for what it wants, the British, to a man, sits down and is exhausted writing letters to the editor. Still, though there is no money in it, the custom affords such a happy, not to say honorable, means of indulging one's egotism, it is beyond me to

But, Mr. Editor, it was not about London that I set out to write you a letter. It was to inquire if you know anything shalwas to inquire if you know anything shallower than are the friends who congratulated me when destiny ordered me to Paris to live. For two months now I have been striving to find anything in Paris to make the life here of a decent American family worth living, and I despair. On the contrary, I have settled down finally under the disheartening conviction that as compared trary, I have settled down finally under the disheartening conviction that as compared with the United States the possibilities of life for an American are reduced fully two-thirds by a residence in Paris. I will not go now into details of why this is so. I will say nothing of the time it takes and of the money it takes to go down town to buy a yard of cotton—this by reason of the ante-diluvian system of street transit and equally antediluvian methods of Paris shop keepers: I will say nothing of the insanitary ers; I will say nothing of the insanitary standards of education here, which being

tively few Americans who for any reason have to take up residence here are so soon paralyzed by medincholy they have not the power of making the truth about their situation known, and the others—the great majority who come here—don't live. They stop for a time and make of Paris a mirror to reflect the splendid egotism which brings them hither. If I wanted to be unkind I should go further and sear the resembles. should go further and say the reason Paris has a reputation in America for being gay is because it affords the American wife so

many convenient pretexts for getting rid of her husband. The ratio of American women to men visiting Paris is easily one hundred to three. Has the American husbands band a future? Is a question which rankles in my mind, witnessing as I do the enormous number of American wives doing Paris alone, untrammeled by any mere man's control.

In the pension where I live are never less than fifty or sixty American women, all fierceley bent on culturing, with their poor. fierceley bent on culturing, with their poor, stupid husbands groveling for their bread and butter at home. A number of them are gray-haired, many of them are past middle age—all of them are certainly old enough to know and do better. Nevertheless, with the whites of their eyes turned up to the heavens where rest the snow-capped summits of their towering ambitions, they stay on here studying—some, art: some science; some languages; others art; some, science; some, languages; others, lingerie and chiffons, and all with a common impulse have broken up their homes, left their husbands in counting room and shop in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, Oshkosh, Kalamazoo-that they may develop their higher aims. One often hears asked, "Is your husband coming over soon?" "Oh, dear, no," is the invariable response; "he cannot leave his business, and he finds nothing to interest him here, anyhow"-this in tones of mixed pity and contempt for the poor, inferior creature who of necessity goes in for bread and butter in-stead of culture, and does not rebel against

Helpless small children are brought to the rescue of the woman who cannot possibly produce any ambition in herself compelling residence abroad. That the children may learn French is then sufficient warrant for telling papa good-bye at the pier in Hoboken and sailing away without him.

One Woman's Reason.

I heard yesterday of one New York woman, who, after repeated protracted visits to Paris, has finally established a home here for herself and children. Business keeps her husband in New York, but-God bless our happy home!—he is allowed to spend two months a year in the bosom of his family.

This incident of the American's wife's necessities forcing her to come to Paris

seems too good to be true, but I have been a witness of ft. She lived in our pension. She was easily thirty-seven years old; she had left one child, a girl aged twelve, in a convent in San Francisco. In that city the superfluous husband also was left. With her she had a sone to parts to cultivate here. superfluous husband also was left. With her she had a son-a bratty child, aged ten. She came to Paris to cultivate her voice, because—this she told us all—because, don't you know, not only life but marriage is so uncertain nowadays, a woman never knows when she may be thrown upon her own resources, and so while her husband continued alive, and producing regularly she just thought, she better perfect her voice so that she could go on the stage if she ever had to do it. Her husband, she said, is getting culte old, moreover he has the divorce habit, somewhat, having separated from his first wife to marry her, and inasmuch aspace herself begins to fade a bit, was it not prudent for her to take time and Paris by the forelock? Most prudent, we all assured her, and when, after the Gore tragedy, her husband, cabled her to abandon a musical carger in Paris and return home instantly, cutting of her bank account to insure obedience, we all wept over her misfortune and agreed with her that perhaps the time had come for heroic action and a debut.

Among the two or three hundred American women I have met in Paris, I have encountered just, one who expressed regret over the absence of her husband. This one did not go in for culture, but for chiffons, and she was se joily and interesting I feel rather mean making public the secret she disclosed of how some American women get their finery in Paris.

Where Things Are Cheap. There is here a large shop conducted by an American woman, and patronized by many Americans, whose names you would There are several new models a la prin cesse in a severity of style that would de be surprised to hear. This shop is supplied with the very, very handsome castoff finery of elegant women who flourish in Paris without visible means of support. A novations in the matter of triple and the color continuing the prince of their color continuing the prince of the prince of their color color continuing the prince of the light the dress reformers. Yokes of heavy lace are now much used on princess gowns



ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

AN ENGLISH RIVIERA. Coast of Cornwall Closely Resembles Continental Counterpart.

from the London Telegraph.

are bought up by the enterprising American woman who sells them to her gullible coun-

woman who sells them to her guilder cont-try-women visiting Parls, telling them that these things are models from well known establishments which have been slightly soiled by repeated tryings-on and she there-

fore gets them at greatly reduced prices and is able to sell them very cheap. Thus

the singularly devoted wife from New York came to possess a truly marvelous creation

of lace and satin fashioned into a reception gown; a velvet street dress; a fur coat, and

economize and she was so glad that she had succeeded, though she did have to cable to the dear absent husband three different

instance of an American wife in Paris who longed to have her husband here, we dis-

covered after she had gone that it was a brevet husband for whom she pined.

Possibilities of a Husband.

I cannot understand why American wo-

men so generally fail to appreciate the pos-

sibilities of a husband in Paris. Truly a

husband has uses here undreamed of in

America, causing him properly to be es-

teemed among the greatest conveniences of

life. This is because in France the husband is popularly regarded as having authority

over his wife. At first I was simply puzzled and a great deal amused to see

how commonly the French husband goes shopping with his wife, even to buy a hat. I noticed that the milliner would place a

hat on the wife's head and the two women

would go into fits of ecstacy over it—the wife smirking at her image in the mirror, cocking her head this side and that, while the milliner in an attitude of wrapped ad-

miration emitted rapid ejaculations of the

superlative degree. Then a bass note would sound from the monsieur and he would ut-

ter a royal negative, whereupon the two women would all but fall at his feet in

their groveling effort to change his mind-the milliner being especially touching in her appeal to the man not to break his wife's heart, but to be good and kind just

this once and let madame have the hat

Has His Uses.

Sumptuous Furs.

for the most inexpensive skins are now be

The Princess Gown.

ment of the superior animal man.

to have to relate of this solitary s

"Broke, Send \$500." It is painful

It is not every one who, when in delicate health and in imperative need of change of climate, can give either the time or money for a trip to those places abroad which are Whence Its Reputation.

I understand perfectly how the notion of the joy of living in Paris comes to be fixed in the minds of Americans. The comparaare greatly in favor of their being ignorant of this fact. It is always the Englishman's first idea on being told that he wants a few days' rest and change of locality to rush away immediately to the continent, derive most probably every benefit from the trip, and promptly catch cold on the homeward journey, owing to the fact that he has to pass through great varieties of climate and risk cold sea passages.

His thoughts fly to the Riviera; he thinks of Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo and some of the pretty little spots across the Italian frontier. It never occurs to him that there is an English Riviera, and that all the attractions of clear skies, blue seas and genial temperature are to be found along the coast of Cornwall. Where it is a question of health, equability of climate is a most important point, especially in lung and chest diseases. What is required in such cases is that from month to month and from day to day there shall be no violent transition from heat to cold, or vice versa, but that such changes as are imposed by nature shall be graduated. Moreover, it is very desirable that the daily range, or difference between day and night temperature, shall not be extreme.

These are all points of importance which are claimed for the Cornish coast, and which for many years past have been steadily supported by the medical faculty. Figures, it is well known, can be made to prove anything, but there are statistics based on years of solid observation and compiled by experts which show that between the temperature of the French the convention.

Riviera and Cornwall the difference is one of two or three degrees only, and not always in favor of the continental resort.

Indeed, it is somewhat curious to note that, while in such months as November and December and March and April the temperature at Mentone, Nice or Cannes is slightly higher than at Falmouth, Penzance and Scilly, during the two severe months of January and February it is the reverse January and February k is the reverse. Moreover, the mean winter range of tem-perature is all in favor of our own English

resorts.

Added to all this is the fact that it takes no longer to reach the farthermost places of Cornwall than it does to go from London to Paris, owing to the fast express service which the Great Western Railway Company has recently inaugurated, with the advantage of smooth traveling and no change of carriages. It must necessarily be admitted that those in search of the amusements and artificial excitements, such as the French Riviera can provide, will have to seek that locality, for they do not exist in our own.

The coast of Cornwall, however, can offer all the attractions of scenery and outdoor healthy exercise, with the comforts of English life.

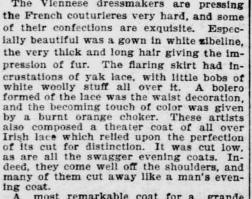
In such places as Falmouth, Penzance, St. Ives and Fowey such a genial climate as described may now be found. It is a region where late in the year flowers bloom in the open air; the flower gardens of Scilly have practically cut out all conti-nental trade and beneath clear skies and hours of genial sunshine new health is to be won and such vistas of rock and see as may recall the azure shores of the Medi-

Russia and Afghanistan.

From the St. Petersburg Novoe Vremya. By the convention of 1873 Russia recognised Afghanistan as coming within the sphere of British influence. That convention, which the radical change in the position of affairs in central Asia should in any case have rendered vold about 1880,



AN ARTISTIC SPANGLED EFFECT



When not in use a tablecloth should be kept in folded creases, and when brought out to be spread should be laid on the table and unfolded its entire length (the width being doubled), with the center crease along the center of the table. Then the half